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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

## INFORMATION REPORT

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Czechoslovakia

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Failures of Electric Power  
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The unusual number of breakdowns of electrical generating machinery in Czechoslovakia during the past several months has caused Czech authorities to suspect a campaign of sabotage. Reportedly, investigation has failed to substantiate this theory. The following three incidents are typical of the recent equipment failures at power generating plants:

- a. On 15 April 1953, an accident at the Holesovice-Bubny electrical generating station in Prague VII resulted in severe damage to an 8,000 kilowatt steam turbine and to the station premises. The turbine had been repaired and was being tested prior to being returned to service. During the test, the turbine developed an excessive rate of speed which caused the bearings to burn out. In addition, five cable terminals were burned out and the over-speed operation of the generator caused it to rip loose from its frame.
- b. About the end of March 1953, a similar accident occurred at the Krvenice generating plant. The regulator unit on a 32,000 kilowatt steam turbine failed during a test and the turbine developed an excessive rate of speed. As a result, the turbine and the exciter dynamo exploded. The plant was damaged but there were no casualties among plant personnel.
- c. On 22 May 1953, the 20,000 kilowatt turbo-generator burned out at the Rynholet electric power plant near Kladno. As a result, seven large motors in the Prague area also burned out because of the drop in voltage output from 22,000 to below 18,000 volts at the Rynholet plant. Four X-ray machines at the Karlov hospital in Prague also failed to function.

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